



Sam Brownback

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BROWNBACK DISAPPOINTED SANCTIONS-LIFTING PROVISION REMOVED FROM AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today said he is disappointed that a provision in the Agriculture Appropriations Bill, (which is currently in the House-Senate Conference Committee) to lift unilateral food and medicine sanctions, has been removed from the bill. The provision was a part of the bill passed by the Senate in August. Brownback is a cosponsor of the provision, which originally passed the Senate as an amendment to Agriculture Appropriations by a vote of 70-28.

"Prices for agricultural products are at rock-bottom levels," Brownback said. "You compound that for some places in America, particularly Kansas -- where they have low yields and bad weather this year, and farmers feel like they get the one-two punch. Now a handful of members decide we are no longer going to lift unilateral sanctions on food and medicine.

"We have been telling farmers that for freedom to farm to work, you have to have freedom to market. We were moving that direction until today's news from the conference. Farmers have to wonder, 'what is going on here'?"

"I call on my colleagues to put this provision back in the bill. It passed with overwhelming support in this body. This is clearly something that people across the country want. It is clearly something that is the right thing to do. Let's do it. And let's not let it be taken out in some deal that only involves a handful of members.

"Unilateral agricultural trade sanctions are generally ineffective. They are effective in punishing our farmers but they are not effective in forwarding our interests in other nations. And at a time when we're already suffering from low agricultural prices, to add this burden, is truly adding insult to injury.

"I'm not saying this provision is going to solve our farm crisis. But clearly, this is a positive step that we can and should take. I'm very disappointed that this provision has been taken out. I'm calling on the members of this body to lift these sanctions from the backs of our farmers," Brownback said.